



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to Examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

On page 1, line 4, please insert **--RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a Continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/869,229, filed June 25, 2001, which is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International application PCT/AU99/01156, filed December 23, 1999, which claims priority of Australian application AU/PQ0425/99, filed May 18, 1999, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.--.

## **REMARKS**

The application has been amended to recite the priority information. No new matter has been added herewith.

## Conclusion

Should there be any questions in reference to the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Appl. No. : 09/888,959  
Filed : June 25, 2001

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9 Aug. 2001

By: Daniel Altman

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